

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ANC LEADER DISCUSSES RESTORATION OF
UNITY WITH GOB

REF: GABORONE 0154

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE GAVE ME A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON HIS MEETING LAST WEEK WITH DR. ELLIOT GABELLAH, VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL WING AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL. MOGWE SAID DR. GABELLAH HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE FOUR PRESIDENTS MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT TO RESTORE ANC UNITY SO THAT THE EXTERNAL WING COULD JOINING THE SMITH-NKOMO NEGOTIATIONS. GABELLAH NOTED THAT THE OAU AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE HAD RECENTLY PASSED A RESOLUTION APPEALING TO THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS DESIGNED TO INSURE ANC UNITY. GABELLAH IN HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE ATTRIBUTED ANC BREAKUP TO NKOMO.

2. MOGWE TOLD ME THAT THE BREAKUP OF ANC HAD EMBARRASSED
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THE FOUR PRESIDENTS. HE INFORMED GABELLAH THAT THE ANC HAD TO

DO THE BASIC WORK TO RESTORE UNITY. MOGWE IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GABELLAH STRESSED THE NEED FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ANC FACTIONS INDICATEING A DESIRE FOR UNITY AND WITHDRAWING OR RENOUNCING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF RECRIMINATION. MOGWE THOUGHT THAT IF THE ANC DID THE BASIC GROUNDWORK, THE PRESIDENTS MIGHT CONSIDER RESUMING THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIST.

3. MOGWE TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE ABOUT A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN SMITH AND GABELLAH; THIS MEETING WAS CALLED BY SMITH. ACCORDING TO GABELLAH, SMITH EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT ABOUT NKOMO'S POPULAR SUPPORT. SMITH TOLD GABELLAH THAT THE WOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT IMMUNITY TO LEADERS OF THE ANC EXTERNAL WING IF THEY JOINED NKOMO IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN TALKS HERE GABELLAH SHOWED SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE REAL MOTIVES UNDERLYING SMITH'S APPARENT DESIRE TO BRING EXTERNAL WING INTO THE TALKS.

BOLEN

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